

# Tales of Walnut Hill



By Robert Summa

Volume 10





## Welcome to the Tales of Walnut Hill

We have a rich history we will share as you read this book. We will look at the past and the all-time greats that left their mark on the history of Walnut Hill: the masters of rifle shooting and pistol shooting. They generated the spirit of the Hill through competitive shooting. What they built and shot was a challenge. They were the distinguished shooters of the Hill. They came from all over the country to shoot at Walnut Hill.

We have Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker of his time and a master rifle shooter.

We have Niedner, an all-time great, a master rifle shooter, and one of the top gunsmiths of his time who chased Geronamo all over the southwest in the 6th Calvary. Then there is Dr. Mann, the father of ballistics, who in 1909 published *The Bullet's Flight* in his quest for the magic bullet and the magic barrel for the perfect score with the perfect rifle. He was a medical doctor and gave up his practice for his quest in ballistics. Then there are D. L. F. Chase, Ned Roberts, Horace Warner, H. V. Perry, Norman Brockway, C. W. Rowland, H. L. Willard, E. A. Leopold, W. V. Lowe, the Russell brothers, Arthur Corbin Gould, N. C. Nash, O. E. Gerrish, John Kelley, Will Hayes, Dr. W. G. Hudson, the great offhand shot Adolph Strecker, Dr. Bakery, L. P. Hansen, Young, Mr. Fry, Daniel Fox, Major Hinman, F.J. Rabbeth and Professor Bell. All are the masters of the rifle. The masters of pistol are C. Paine, Tom Anderton, Eugene Patridge, and Dorothy Knight at Walnut Hill. The riflemen of the Hill, having looked at the American militia team's defeat at Creedmoor, decided to do something about it, so they trained a militia rifle team. Some were members of Walnut Hill and knew the game of long range shooting, and were sent to Creedmoor where they won every event entered. The Walnut Hill riflemen were men of stature: doctors, engineers, and masters of their trade. They were men that enjoyed the shooting sport and did all they could to preserve it for the future generations to come. They shot offhand at ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1000 yards, holding the finest rifles of their day. H. Pope was the father of the gane twist rifle barrel. Pope and Niedner made barrels for Dr. Mann.

All proceeds from the selling of these books will go to the Massachusetts Rifle Association to preserve the history of the M.R.A. through our Museum. If you can help, I thank you. I am looking for old photos of Walnut Hill to share with our membership. The one thing I have learned about history: if someone does not record it, it is lost for all time. But these books will present a vast history which we will share with the world. As you read and look at all the photos, know the books will be a treasure for future generations after we have all come and gone. The books detail the Tales of Walnut Hill. And we will only print 100 books in each series, for this is truly a limited edition!

Robert Summa  
M.R.A. Historian at the Walnut Hill Range

## The Massachusetts Rifle Association

### Tales of Walnut Hill

Volume 10

I dedicate this book to  
Lynne Sibbo  
for all her help over the years

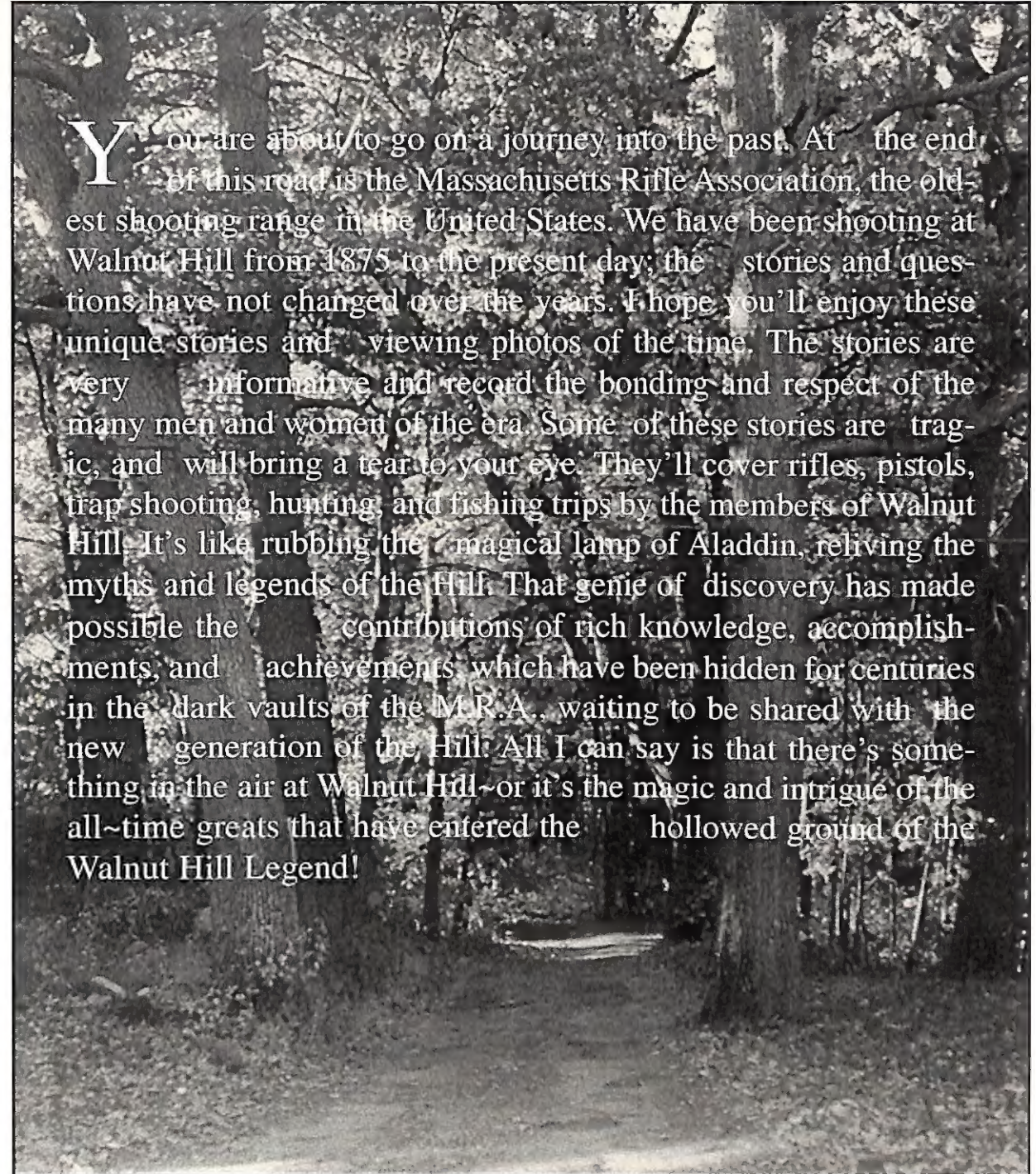


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## Introduction

You are about to go on a journey into the past. At the end of this road is the Massachusetts Rifle Association, the oldest shooting range in the United States. We have been shooting at Walnut Hill from 1875 to the present day; the stories and questions have not changed over the years. I hope you'll enjoy these unique stories and viewing photos of the time. The stories are very informative and record the bonding and respect of the many men and women of the era. Some of these stories are tragic, and will bring a tear to your eye. They'll cover rifles, pistols, trap shooting, hunting, and fishing trips by the members of Walnut Hill. It's like rubbing the magical lamp of Aladdin, reliving the myths and legends of the Hill. That genie of discovery has made possible the contributions of rich knowledge, accomplishments, and achievements, which have been hidden for centuries in the dark vaults of the M.R.A., waiting to be shared with the new generation of the Hill. All I can say is that there's something in the air at Walnut Hill—or it's the magic and intrigue of the all-time greats that have entered the hollowed ground of the Walnut Hill Legend!





## Hunting Woodchuck's

**August 15, 1900.** The annual meet of this organization was held Aug. 15 at the clubhouse on Medicus' preserve. The usual number of distinguished marksmen were present. The slaughter of the innocents was great and the hearts of many farmers were made glad. To while away the evenings the ladies of the club formed a Green Corn Roast Association.

**Major George Shorkley**, being the oldest military man present, was unanimously elected president. He duly appreciated the honor and wished us much happiness and satisfaction in gnawing the juicy, succulent corn from the cob. After the feast the major said he had been in many battles and seen many men go down under fire, but had never seen so many ears of corn go down, not even in a herd of Kentucky razor backs.

**Dr. Baker** is of Boston culture. When in his knickerbockers and that everlasting meerschaum in his mouth he reminded me of Peter Van Stuyvesant. He has a strong, prominent chin, which his nose overlooks, and a hair trigger in his make-up which goes off easily, as he was struggling with a large ear of corn some wag present said, "Doctor. put your foot on it." The hair trigger was pressed I and that ear of corn went as it shot with a plastic lubricating wad. That wag wagged his head, or a Bull's-eye would have been made.

**John E. Kelley**, of Boston, and E. A. Sabin, of Ayer, Mass., both members of the Corn Association did not arrive in time for the roast and to make their faces shine with cob and butter, but when told of the number of 'chucks killed their faces did shine like a copper tea-kettle of colonial days.

As historian of the Woodchuck Club I will report a few of the many incidents that occurred while in the field.

**Major Shorkley** shot, as ever, all 'chucks through the head and at long distances. He did not-like the boys-waste good powder on stumps and tufts of grass.

**Mr. Sabin** reminded me of Oliver Cromwell, only a little more dressy. After his first day afield he cast aside his pink shirt waist for one of more sober hue. He makes a first-class achromatic 'scope and has one mounted on his rifle, but for some unaccountable reason, for once it did not achromat. He saw, or thought he saw, a chuck some 200 yards distant. He took the Creedmoor prone position and let loose his trigger. Mr. Chuck did not stir. Kelley said, "You did not hit him." "Yes, I did," said Sabin; "I could see the fur fly." On inspection by Medicus the supposed chuck proved to be a decayed stump; the fur was splinters caused by a central shot. After that failure to distinguish a chuck from a stump at 200 yards. Mr. Sabin shot a chuck, distance 75 yards, shooting down hill at an angle of about 45 degrees. The chuck weighed 13 pounds. If you had seen Sabin then you would have thought he weighed 500 pounds, he was so puffed up.

**J. E. Kelley** looks like a refined Presbyterian minister. He hits from the shoulder and takes things straight. He made some remarkable shots at long distance. At offhand he is cock sure, but "accidents will happen in the best of regulated families," and he did hit a tuft of grass at 250 yards (so judged). He looked surprised at not finding a chuck.

**H. Cross** and **John Cox**, home members, made good their reputation as 'chuck slayers. To wind up our shoot we went to the farm of George Lebanon, who owns a vicious ram, which fact Dr. Baker did not know. The doctor saw a 'chuck 50 yards off under an apple tree taking supper, and started for it. The ram slowly followed. Soon it increased its speed until within fifteen feet of the doctor, when it lowered its head and took aim. The farmer's boy called, "Look out for the ram ! The warning came none too soon to save, and we had a fine acrobatic display, which was laughable if not beautiful. The fence became a defense to the doctor as his knickerbockers and sneakers went over it

into the barnyard.

This incident closed our meet. Trophies were counted; 175 tails by actual count, Probably 200 were killed, as all hunters know that many fatally wounded woodchucks will take to their holes; and some were shot across the river beyond reach.

Dr. Baker distinguished himself among the natives by shooting a hawk from the top of a dead hemlock tree which was some 80 feet high. The distance was not known, but I think it not-less than 50 yards. The bird measured from tip to tip 38 inches, his tail 10 1/2 inches.

I will here caution Walnut Hill marksmen to look well to their laurels. Mrs. Baker has a new Stevens rifle and is making fine scores. One day in my presence she made a target of 21, offhand, Columbia target. Miss M. K. Skinner has taken to offhand shooting, and experts say she will make a success.

The Woodchuck Club has voted that the proceedings of this club shall be published in *Shooting and Fishing*, as it has the largest geographical circulation of any paper in the world. Dr. Fridley Nausen, when at Franz Josef Land, found one at a news stand for 15 cents. Franz Josef Land is a suburb of the North Pole. Fish oil is abundant, but mental food is scarce. The weekly arrival of *Shooting and Fishing* was a Godsend to the doctor. In it he first learned of E. A. Leopold's oleo and Dr. Skinner's plastic lubricating wads, which he finds effectually prevents the rifle from freezing up with the residue from nitro powder. One year from date *Shooting and Fishing* can be obtained at any news stand in Nansen City, which is only seventy-five miles from the North Pole.

## Medicus' Prayer.

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
(All curled up in a little heap)  
I pray the Lord my friends to keep.  
Cocked and primed for another meet.  
And may we all,  
With powder and ball,  
To the roll-call answer, each with his gun,  
In the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and one.



Colt Lightning Rifle



## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

*July 14, 1900.* Mr. Homes is summering in Pamworth, N. H., and in a letter he reports having located several 'chuck holes, but had not at that time been granted an interview with the occupants.

Fine as has been the scores made by Mrs Briggs and E. E. Patridge, each having made 119, it has remained for Cupid to beat them both, by making perfect scores with his extremely ancient bow and arrow. Henceforth, Mr. and Mrs. Patridge will make a good rest team to dodge, for it is extremely doubtful if such another expert couple exists. May their troubles be few.

A new use has been discovered for the Pope machine rest, a member having won a Pope rear sight at the spring meeting wished to replace his old sights with this and a globe front, and I volunteered to do the job. Applying the front mounting, I adjusted the rest until the bull's-eye was perfectly centered in the aperture of the old sight. The rear vernier was then removed and replaced by the Pope, the elevation of which was adjusted until it coincided with that of the old sight, and trued up until the bull was again centered. The front wind gauge was then replaced by the globe front sight, which was driven into the slot until the bull was again centered, the rear sight, of course, having to be slightly lowered, to correspond with the difference in the height of the two front sights, and the job was done, without firing a shot. Upon shooting it later, it was found that the sights were, as had been confidently expected, perfect, except that perhaps owing to a difference in light since the rifle was last shot, the rear sight had to be slightly lowered, but the alignment was perfect.

**Thomas Anderton** is delighted with his recent purchase, a Colt New Service revolver. Certainly it has the best grip and pull off of and revolver the writer has ever squinted over. A peculiarity of the Colt revolvers long noticed is, that no matter what the shape of the butt may be, there is a wholly satisfying feel about the way in which it fits the hand, which is entirely lacking in any other make. Not even the Russian model S. & W. revolver as now made can equal the grip on the Colt New Service. The original Russian model revolver has a projection of the frame above the hand, which fills the same much better than the modern arm.

I do not feel that I am violating any confidence by disclosing the fact that offhand shooting has an attraction for Dr. Baker superior to rest shooting. This he candidly admitted to me in a recent conversation, and I did not say-at least I think I did not "I told you so." Having found a perfect charge for his .25-21, the doctor is hard at work trying for another. If he would only stop monkeying and get down to business he would soon make a first-rate offhand shot, but enthusiasts will experiment, and it is well for the fraternity that they do. Dr. Baker is firmly convinced of the value of E. A. Leopold's sheet oleo lubricating wads, and states that on first using them he instantly detected the difference in the ease with which the bullets went down the barrel of his .28 Pope. They had been going down hard, scraping all the way, and after the third wad had been used the doctor said his bullet went down as easily as the first with a clean barrel, I have not had any experience in that way, as my rifle feeds at the other end, but the only clean score I ever made was made while trying some of the oleo. Still one cannot take a Pope even, burning Semi, with oleo wads and expect to get 10's every shot by simply holding somewhere in the direction of the target. Some, on buying a new and accurate rifle, expect to get big scores at once, not realizing that if a rifle is not held properly one is not so liable to get good scores with an accurate barrel as a poor one, for the accurate one shoots where it is held, while the other may scratch in a 10 now and then on the poorest of holds.

While looking over some lead dug from the back-stops at the range recently I found a number of .30 caliber miniature charge bullets, and upon examining several I failed to find the mark of a

single land upon any of them, I have heard them variously quoted as being very accurate at short range and as requiring a two-foot circle to catch them at fifty yards. Certainly if they do not take the rifling one would not expect much from them.

A. Niedner, who has recently become a member of the M. R. A., appeared July 14, 1900 with a new outfit, having recently had his .32 Ballard recut to .33 caliber by Harry Pope. After getting sighted in, he put up a score of 89 with a beastly wind blowing, which easily landed 7's on 10 holds. The way those bullets found the bull was, as Kipling terms it, "just chronic." W. F. Spencer Chelsea, Mass.

The Ideal Manufacturing Co., of New Haven, Conn., advises us that it has lately increased its manufacturing capacity by adding more space and additional machinery. The company is pleased to advise the trade and its customers in general that it now hopes to be able to fill orders for its full line of reloading tools more promptly than heretofore. It expects to put on the market this fall other new implements of value to shooters that are up to the times, and indications point to a good fall trades which it will be ready to meet,

## Annie Oakley's Irony

*April 14, 1900.* Everyonce in a while some' one of Annie Oakley's many friends try to tease her in a good-natured way, by sending her some of the absurd shooting yarns that are printed in the daily papers. The New York Sun, which has the reputation of printing more shooting and fishing stories that are not true than most papers, recently contained the following article dated Alliance, Neb.:

"**Jack Vance**, a cowboy from the ranch of the Butte Creek Cattle Co., was on trial here this week on a charge of shooting at a brakeman on the Burlington railroad with intent to kill him. He had received his pay, a few days before and was engaged at the time of the shooting in the picturesque pastime of painting the county red.

"Vance vehemently denied any intent to perforate the brakeman. He told the court that while it was true that he did take out his revolver and shoot after the brakeman had pushed him off the train, he was merely giving a prearranged signal. He and a friend had been down the road a few miles and wanted to ride back to the nearest station to the ranch. Realizing that if they were found by any of the train crew they would be put off, they had arranged that if one was put off the train he should notify his partner by firing his revolver once.

"The trainman, with visions of what he firmly believed was a narrow escape from death, shook his head, and the judge looked unbelieving. Vance's cowboy friend corroborated the story, but seeing that his tale failed to receive credence, the defendant asked the court to please step outside. The judge asked what for.

"I'll prove my innocence, your honor,' Vance said.

"The court was curious, and went outside. So did the sheriff, lawyers, and spectators. Vance pulled out his revolver, and holding a postage stamp between the fingers of his left hand, clipped off each corner in succession. Next he asked a spectator to suspend a hickory nut from a thread. Walking off 30 feet, he wheeled and at the first shot cut the thread. Taking six tacks, he placed them loosely in a piece of wood. This he placed against a post 25 yards away. Borrowing a watch from a bystander, he opened it, and using the case for a mirror, shot with his back to the mark and drove each tack into the wood without a miss.

"The brakeman had been looking on in open-mouthed wonder. As Vance concluded the brakeman stepped up to the judge, and tapping him on the arm, said:



"Yer-yer honor, I guess I was mistaken. That man wasn't shooting at me."

Soon after this article was published clippings of it began to be received by Annie Oakley. She sends it to us with these words: "I think I will have to retire from shooting, as I cannot keep pace with such marksmanship."

The Pennsylvania trout season opened Monday of this week; the 15th, the legal opening day, falling on Sunday.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**June 14, 1900.** The publication of F. Kuhnle's fine Columbia score in *Shooting and Fishing* of June 14, 1900 recalls one shot by J. E. Kelley on June 2 at Walnut Hill in the current merchandise match, as follows: 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1-15.

**Mr. Kelley** was invited by Harold Hutchinson to try a score with his .22 caliber Pope-Winchester and readily complied, with the above result. Peep and globe sights were used, and the ammunition was Peters long-rifle, this was the only score shot, and Mr. Kelley laid especial stress upon the fact that no change of sights was necessary, the rifle being shot as it came into his hands. He says this is very unusual for him, as he almost invariably has to alter the sights to suit his manner of holding.

A large number of rifles and pistols were being sighted up June 16. Personally, I spent the afternoon at this task, having replaced a wind gauge front and vernier rear with globe front and Soule rear sight, and after getting a run of fourteen shots in the 8-ring on the Columbia target, turned to the Standard, on my first score-88 I got three 12's on fine holds, and concluded the sights would do. The shooting on the Columbia target was certainly old, out of the afternoon's shooting but one I was made, and that was the last shot of a score counting 91. After an hour's shooting the bull's-eye presented a curious appearance, having a ring of black pasters round the center in the 3, 4, and 2 circles, with that solitary 1 in the middle.

**Dr. Baker** had a beautiful chance to lower the rest record on this target, but an unaccountable 5 on his ninth shot spoiled his chance.

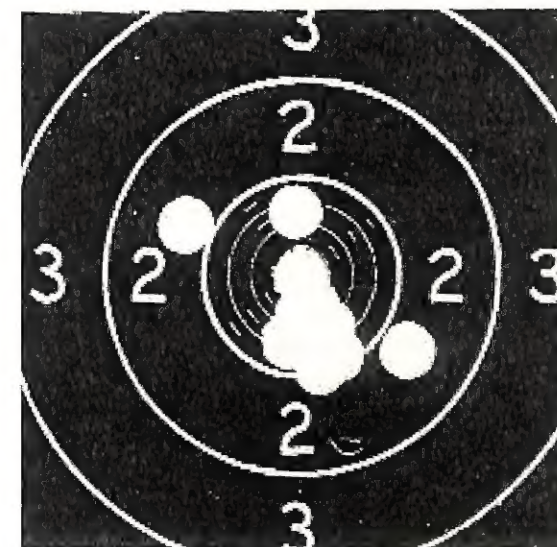
June 14, 1900. Anderton also had a fine chance to make another perfect score, he had just replaced his bead front sight with a square one and was adjusting the same, he is used to holding on the center of the bull, and said that he was paying so much attention to his lateral sighting that he allowed the front sight to creep up into the black, getting an 8 and 9 at 12 o'clock on his last two shots, a former score on the same day counting 96 would have been easily covered by the 10-ring, but the group was slightly to the left.

The veteran Salem Wilder has been a regular attendant of late and is fully as enthusiastic as ever, although tiring more easily than in former years, when his name was usually at the head of the rest scores. H. L. Willard has just made for Mr. Wilder a crosspiece for use on his rest rifle, and after adjusting it June 16, 1900 the latter shot a score to test its value which counted 110, commencing with a 9-good proof that his hand and eye have not lost their cunning.



Walnut Hill

**May 23, 1900.** The accompanying illustration represents the record score for rifle at 50 yards on the Columbia target, offhand, Shot at Walnut Hill May 23, 1900, by J. T. Humphrey in Merchandise Prize match Rifle, .25-21 Stevens, 26-inch barrel; Mogg telescope, 4 power; palm rest, set trigger; bullets, .257-77. cast 1 to 14; charge, 29 grains weight Green Walsrode, confined in base of shell with thin wad, and U. M. C. 6 1/2 nitro primer. White pasters over center were used to sight on readily.





## Walnut Hill Gleanings

**February 13, 1899.** A short time ago I mentioned what I conceived to be an improvement in the .38-55 M Ideal bullet, and this was further commented on by my friend F. immediately following F.'s indorsement of my note, friend Barlow, alert as usual to the interests of rifle cranks, dropped me a line asking for further information, which was given with additional light from the experience of J. E. Kelley. A broad base band was desired, to stand the explosion and prevent gas cutting. It was found, on examining some bullets shot into a snowbank, that the bullet upset ahead of the first band, and to prevent any possibility of leading, another band and groove were suggested, making a shorter point, with a good long bearing, and better balance for the light weights. It was desired to retain the narrow grooves for ease in seating in the rifling when the bullet projects from the shell.

A few days later several bullets were received, which, upon inspection, proved to be the much-desired article, a mold soon followed, and a number of bullets were cast 1 to 32 for trial at the range. These were lubricated with Banana lubricant, sized, and, after a couple of sighting shots, Kelley shot the score of 216 which appeared in these columns February 2. It was rather a poor day to test anything, but everything went well until on the eighth shot, when about to shift the rifle for a better hold, it was discharged, and an is resulted. Between shots the wind shifted from east to west unnoticed, and the ninth was blown from a 21 at 6 to 17 at 4. The windage was changed for the last shot and a trifle too much added, causing a 20 on a 23 hold. With these exceptions, every shot went just where it was held.

It is intended that on some day when the conditions are favorable for rest shooting, some one of the rest shooters shall test this bullet, with telescope, level, wedge, and all the fixings, except that it is to be shot dirty. It is confidently expected a surprise party is in store for those who have passed by on the other side when cannellured bullets were mentioned.

This bullet, a cut of which appeared in this journal last week, weighs 300 grains, and Mr. Barlow informs me the number will be 375200, for the regular mold the price will be \$1.50 special list, and it will also be made in the Perfection style at the regular price. The point is the same in shape as the regular .38-55, and the regular tool will seat this bullet, making it very convenient for those desiring a short range charge.

I am pleased to see that A. L. Woodward holds a prior record of 240 as a trump card, which he has evidently played at the proper time. Mr. Gates' score of 240 was made before I became a regular subscriber of *Shooting and Fishing* hence I never saw it, that I recollect, at that time I read an occasional copy which Fletcher Osgood left at the house, found it very interesting, and finally, before starting for Florida one winter, I borrowed a whole wad, commencing with *The Rifle, Vol. 1, No. 1*, from William Gerrish, to read on the way. When I came home I borrowed the remainder to date, and then, having contracted the habit, I became a subscriber that was in 1893.

If you wish to see an illustration of the saying, "Once a rifleman, always one," just drop in on William Gerrish at his office. I will wager that before you leave he will illustrate some remark by pulling out a drawer and raking out a handful of 110-grain shells and 550-grain bullets, although it is many years since he has burned powder in those shells.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**June 18, 1900.** On June 18 and 19 the Massachusetts Rifle Association will hold its spring meeting, and members are feeling correspondingly elated. The programme has not been fully completed as yet, but enough has been given out to assure competitors a goodly list of prizes. The principal prizes, of course, will be in the Any rifle match, as the majority of members are now wedded to that peculiar arm. The term, Spring meeting, is a synonym for a royal good time. Members come and go; shoot frequently or seldom, but all-or nearly all-attend the spring meeting, sure of meeting all one's friends, and of a surfeit of shooting. All shooters are invited to attend, and are promised a hearty welcome.

**H. M. Pope** is well represented at Walnut Hill, specimens of his handiwork being in the possession of no fewer than eight members. J. T. Humphrey and Crimp are the latest to appear with them, the former with a .28 and the latter with a .38-55-330. The latter rifle was tried at rest on April 7, 1900 and held elevations remarkably well. It was no day for rest shooting, though.

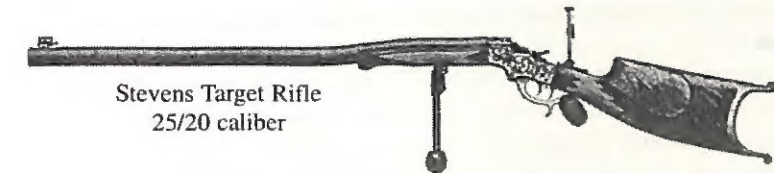
Owing to the weather, the rest shooters have been conspicuous chiefly by their absence from the range so far this year. A glance at the rest scores will prove that the offhand shooters have had no walk-over. When men, who begin to talk of lead if a bullet is out of the 11 ring, have all they can do to keep in the 8 and 9 circles, conditions are certainly not perfect.

For the first time in many moons J. E. Kelley was missing at the weekly round-up April 14. Startled queries revealed the fact that he was attending to business instead of shooting, something unheard of, this was serious, when a man neglects shooting for business something must be done, and a prominent member remarked that "Kelley must have a talking to."

Tom Anderton is busily pegging away at the Frenchman, and his two scores of 41 in six shots made April 11, show what progress he is making. Tom says it is like holding for 10's on the Standard target to get into the French bull's-eye.

Today-Easter Sunday-is the most perfect day we have had so far this year; temperature, 60° in the shade. Pity' we could not have had such a day yesterday instead of the one furnished, where one shot would get blown out to a 6, and the next let out to a 6, on the other side. There are other days coming though.

W. P. Spencer Chelsea, Mass.



Stevens Target Rifle  
25/20 caliber



## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**September 29, 1900.** I recently had the pleasure of receiving a letter from our wandering member, J. Cooney, Jr., who at present is sojourning in California, in pursuit of a climate which will permanently relieve him of the asthma from which he suffers. He mentioned meeting another wanderer in the person of F. J. Rabbeth while on a trip to the isle of Santa Catalina, and spoke of Rab's newest invention, enclosing a clipping from the Los Angeles Times with a report of the fishing scores. He says the tuna fishermen are falling over each other in the effort to procure one of the new reels.

On Wednesday last, finding I was holding in fairly good shape, I resolved to give Dr. Skinner's plastic wads a trial, and proceeded forthwith to do so. It is odd, but the first clean score I ever made was while testing a similar product from the hands of E. A. Leopold; the odd part consisting in the fact the first score I shot with Dr. Skinner's preparation was also a clean one, aggregating 91. I also had a run of 17 bull's-eyes, the best ten of which foots up 95 Judging from the results attained by its use, it is a good thing, and J. E. Kelley is never tired of expatiating upon its merits. The only time he has looked despondent of late was when he had used his lot all up and was afraid he would have to shoot without it. Placing mine at his disposal removed the clouds, and he proceeded to do me up with great gusto.

**Harold Hutchinson** returned from an extended vacation last week, and visited the range Wednesday afternoon. His first twenty shots were two scores counting 88 and 92, which is not half bad for one who had not fired a shot since June 19. Niedner starts for Chicago soon, a business trip, and intends to take in Milwaukee-or get taken in.

I understand that C. B. Pratt has become disgusted with rifle shooting, and hear that his .38 caliber Pope-Ballard schuetzen rifle is for sale. A fine rifle for somebody, if true.

**Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Patridge** visited the range Sept. 24, and received a warm welcome, after which they proceeded to shoot, with what result the scores show. Having a good example set before them, Tom Anderton and Sidney Gleason have both recently become Benedicts and have the full sympathies of their friends who have previously done like-wise. Tom further distinguished himself by recording in the state military team match last Thursday at Walnut Hill, the highest total ever made at the state shoots-a 48 at 200 and a 46 at 500 yards, in a poor light and fishtail wind. He said he held bulls eyes for the other two at 200, but lost them on the wind.

I venture to say the issue of *Shooting and Fishing* for September 20, 1900 was received with grins by the majority of rifle shooters in the United States. The front cover of that particular number should be framed, for a more characteristic picture of Harry Pope will never be seen. It seems odd to Walnut Hill shooters who shoot out of doors the year round, to see announcements of the last outdoor shoots of several of the New York clubs, just as our busiest time draws nigh.

**Dr. Baker** has lost his wager in the fifty yards match on the Columbia target, but three 15's and better having been made. The doctor has purchased for Mrs. Baker a light Stevens rifle with which she is doing some really fine offhand shooting at 50 yards.

Some record work should have been done this fall, for on several days the shooting conditions have been almost ideal. Soon we will be longing for these conditions, when the cold northwesterners are howling across the range, and the red hot stoves are working overtime to comfort us. But the neglected opportunity is spoken of as one of the things which "come not back."

W. F. SPENCER. Chelse Mass.

## A Broken Shell Extractor

The Ideal Manufacturing Co., of New Haven, Conn., has added a new implement to its already extensive list of requisites for sportsmen. It is a device for extracting broken shells from the chamber of a rifle. The Ideal company has this to say of its shell extractor:

"A broken shell in a rifle is a bad break. With high pressure powders they do break, and if you have nothing with you to get the shell out, your rifle is a club.

"how many sportsmen have been deprived of the use of their rifle when they wanted it badly, on account of a piece of the broken shell remaining in the chamber, we cannot say. We do know, however, that the liability for such breakage has increased greatly with the advent of smokeless high pressure powder, which fact accounts for the Ideal Broken Shell Extractor being made, with one of these in your pocket you can feel safe, and as the price is so small, you cannot afford to be without one. Relating to its efficiency we will let others testify. The following letter from the Marlin Fire Arms Co. will suffice to convince all who use a rifle that they may need one of these implements some time, and it is best not to wait until it is needed, for you may then be where you cannot get one. It is an old adage that 'A stitch in time saves nine,' which we will fit to the matter in hand by saying, a purchase in time may save nine times the purchase price. This may not be very good poetry, but it is a fact worthy of your attention.

"The Marlin Fire Arms Co. say of this extractor: "The Ideal Broken Shell Extractor that we have been using for the past month has proved a very valuable device for us. You know we require a great number of cartridges for testing our firearms and, as a matter of economy, we invariably reload the shells as long as they will last. Many times numbers of them when breaking will part in the middle, leaving the muzzle portion of the shell in the chamber of the gun. To remove this piece of broken shell we heretofore usually unscrewed the barrel from the frame and reamed it out, This in some cases would take a couple of hours, for it is a particular job, and there is always more or less danger of injuring the chamber, so great care is required. Since using your extractor we have never been compelled to take down a gun, and in no case has it failed to extract the broken portion. it has never injured a rifle and operates as quickly and as readily as the gun does on a complete shell. We can understand the value of this extractor to any sportsman who may have the misfortune to have a shell broken while out on a shoot, which we are sorry to say is liable to occur to any one who is using high pressure powders. You should find a ready sale for it, as the price is insignificant in comparison to its value when wanted.

"The above illustration shows that it is simple and strong, there is no adjusting, it is self-contained, with no parts to lose. It is made of soft steel and casehardened. The ball run is on an incline, and the ball wedge is made of the best of steel hardened and ground to the proper size. They will last a lifetime. No rifleman's outfit is complete without one. No one should go to the woods or to the range without taking one with him. Ask your dealer for them; We are now ready to furnish the following sizes: .32-40 Marlin and Winchester, .32-40 Remington, .30-30 Marlin and Winchester, .303 Savage, .303 British, .30-40 U. S. A.

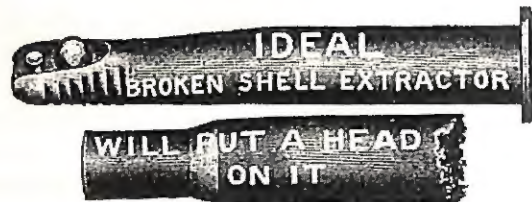
"If your dealer will not serve you, we will mail you one on receipt of 75 cents. If you have not one of our Handbooks for shooters, 126 pages, let us know and we will send you one. Address this company. The instructions for using the extractor are as follows:

"Keep it thoroughly clean and dry, also free from rust. Before Inserting it in the breech of the rifle, see that there is no grit or dirt in the ball run, to prevent the ball rolling back and forth freely. When the shell is broken, insert the extractor same as a complete cartridge; insert it with muzzle of the rifle up. See that the head of the extractor is seated in the breech bolt. Be sure and note that the

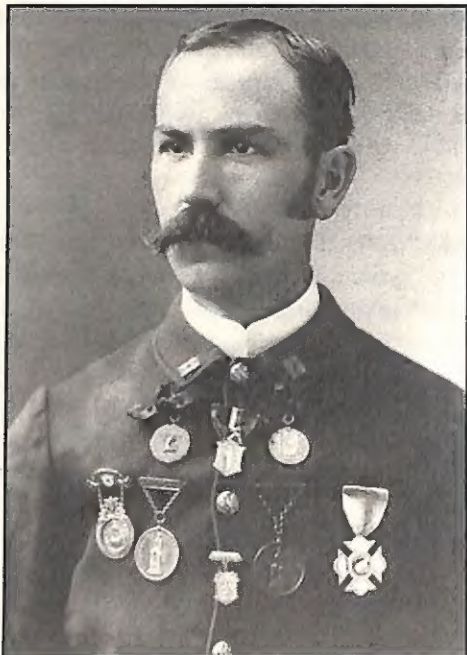


extractor of rifle is properly engaged with the head. Close the action of the rifle while the muzzle is up, then turn muzzle down and the ball will roll forward and grip the broken shell. While in this position operate the lever and withdraw the shell. Should the shell ever stick so tightly through being expanded or forced into a ruptured chamber-such a case should be left to a gunsmith that it can-not be withdrawn with the lever of the rifle, you can release the grip of the Ideal extractor by raising the muzzle of the rifle and closing the action again, When the muzzle is up and the action closed, the ball will roll back, releasing the grip. The extractor may then be withdrawn freely.

"If the action of the rifle is not powerful enough to withdraw a firmly imbedded broken shell, a wooden rod may be introduced through the muzzle of barrel, and operated on the end of the extractor, which projects beyond the muzzle of the shell. In all ordinary cases the regular extractor and mechanism of the rifle is sufficient."



## Major Charles W. Hinman



*January 16, 1894.* The State of Massachusetts has also lost the services of another competent rifle, Major Charles W. Hinman, Inspector of Rifle Practice of the First Brigade, M. V. M., has tendered his resignation. Major Hinman has been connected with the Volunteers for many years. He has shot on international teams twice, and on the Massachusetts state military team which visited England in 1889. Business responsibilities have compelled Major Hinman to withdraw, but he served his state well for many years. His loss will be greatly felt, especially should any national or international rifle contest occur.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

*May 24, 1900.* Upon our return from Walnut Hill recently we were informed by the evening papers that the blow which we encountered was the tail of the tornado which devastated Galveston, it really seemed at times as if something would happen at the range, as one of the targets was about half blown from the frame and had to be shut down and another one opened. One shooter, a member of the Boston Press Rifle Association, was shooting a .32-40 at rest with 4 1/2 points on, and occasionally getting blown off the target. Just as this same shooter was about to press the trigger on one occasion, a dog calmly trotted in front of his target, and proceeded down the whole line on top of the pit roof, It was remarked that the safest place for him was in front of the bull's-eye on No. 11 target, where some members of the M. V. M. were practicing.

I am indebted to Dr. Skinner for a sample of his famed plastic wads, delivered through the medium of Dr. Baker. I have not really had a good opportunity to try them as yet, but intend to at an early date. J. Busfield used some at the Labor day shoot, with the result that his gun was so clean that upon four occasions after seating his bullets they dropped upon the floor; and twice, from this cause, he shot without a bullet, showing that one can have too much of a good thing. One instance was comical enough, and seems worth relating. Busfield was sitting at his loading bench, talking and awaiting his turn, when he heard and saw the bullet drop out. Remarking, "There, if I hadn't seen that I'd have shot without a bullet," he kept on talking, and when his turn came, went out and wasted about 47 grains of powder, but no lead. His face was a study when he came in, and needless to say he received scant sympathy, but in truth he needed none, for he appreciated the joke fully as much as the observers.

While on the subject I recall a note some time since in these columns on the tendency to do this very thing, and it was fully illustrated at a meeting which I once attended. One would think that on the Honor target, where a competitor has only three shots, he would be extremely careful about his loading and shooting, but on the above occasion, one shooter, whose name is rather familiar to nearly every rifleman in the country, fired one shot at the wrong target, and two other well-known shots each shot without a bullet. I will not attempt to report their conversation.

Commenting upon the Jeffery telescope sight attachment, the general opinion at Walnut Hill seems to be that while the arrangement for wind is an ingenious one, the point has been overlooked that the rotary motion of the spindle carries the point out of focus. Anyone who knows how delicate the adjustment of the cross hairs must be in an ordinary telescope will appreciate this. Long before the Jeffery sight was announced, Tom Anderton, in conversation with the writer, mentioned a square pin in a telescope, to be held under the bull, as desirable. Great minds, etc. the Boston Globe all over, but apparently has not stopped to consider that a sub-editor on a daily paper cannot take all day long to verify the correctness of clippings such as the one he mentions. Of course the thing is perfectly absurd, but a man glancing over a clipping when copy was needed wouldn't notice the errors unless he was an expert in that line. During the late war the same paper mentioned the fact (?) that some alarming number of the M. V. M. could hit the brass buckles on a soldiers belt at 500 yards something like five out of six times with Springfield rifles, Now that is odd enough, yet the man in charge of that department has been a member of the militia for fifteen years, and has shot in the annual competitions of the Boston Press Rifle Association

Absolute accuracy is hard to obtain either in rifles, newspaper reports, or, in fact, anything. Even the report of Thomes. Anderton's perfect score in the Globe contained an error, although the facts were collected by an associate editor of the above publication, who was at the range, and who is a good pistol and rifle shot, a member, director, and one of the range committee of the M. R. A., and a very careful and methodical man generally. He took a copy of the score and had an electrotype made



for the next day's paper, although it was after 6 P. M. when we arrived in town. and also collected some general information regarding Tom; but he located him during the war as being in the south with the Fifth M. V. M., whereas he is a member of Battery B, First H. A., M. V. M., and was stationed at various forts along the New England coast. Of course the error was slight, but it shows how easily one creeps in, Mr. M. knew that Anderton had served during the war and that he had been in the south-he was in Florida on business-and assumed that he was there with his regiment, and even examined the complete roster of the Fifth to see if he could find the name, which all took considerable time, and minutes to a night editor of a Sunday paper are as dollars.

From now on users of the new Ideal lubricator may have trouble with the same unless they are wise and keep the machine in a moderately warm room, from 75 ° up, so the lubricant will not become petrified from the cold, It is hard enough in all conscience in any temperature when commencing to operate, but at the above reading soon softens up from the pressure and works easily. Let it get thoroughly chilled, however, and one faces a different problem. It will not soften up, and is about as easily handled as rock would be, A good way is to place it upon the range shelf or other warm place, until the cylinder feels warm to the hand, and care must be taken to relieve the pressure on the grease, or the expansion of the same may break something.

Few realize how exact must be the workmanship and general lining up of the parts to the above machine. For instance, if the hole in which the top punch is inserted is .001 of an inch out of line it will spoil every bullet forced into the die. Also, if the die seat is not reamed perfectly plumb the same will happen, and one would hardly believe the small hole which lubricant under pressure will squeeze through, and yet in mine, and I have three, everything is perfectly aligned, all tight, and in perfect working order. The only trouble I ever had was in the threads to the cylinder cap getting crossed when screwing the same on, but even this is obviated in the new model by removing the threads entirely. Mr. Barlow tells me that he does not believe the Ideal Company will get rich through the sale of them. Perhaps not, but if every shooter realized what the possession of one meant to him, friend Barlow would at least get his money back.

Mr. Wentworth's belief in the possible being attained is not at all far fetched. I quite agree with him. It only requires a good man, good day, good rifle, and last but by no manner of means least, good luck, in various ways, the one most prominently coming to mind being good luck in getting the ten 10's on one ticket, I have been informed it was before my time that Gao. F. Russell, of the M. R. A., once finished a score with five 10's and began the next with five more, making the ten conseontively but unfortunately not on one ticket. For myself only a second rate shot at the best I have made as high as 95 in ten shots, not on one ticket! however, 92 being the limit in that line.

Some can, or claim they can, shoot a 10-pound rifle under N. R. A. rules better than the schuetzen, C. A. Coombs being one of the number, He shot a No. 4 .38-55 barrel with set trigger for some time, but substituted a No. barrel and removed the catch hook, saying he could do better. He certainly is a bad man to go up against.

A number of members of the M. R. A., including J. E. Kelley, Dr. Baker, and myself, have sworn off on squirrel shooting, not seeing it in the line of sport. As Kelley put it, "A squirrel has absolutely no chance against a fair rifle shot, it is too much like murder." I have not shot a gray for six years, and probably never shall unless by accident.

In the trees surrounding Dr. Baker's residence a gray has reared a litter of young, and the doctor had by patience tamed the old one until she would take a nut from his fingers. He tells me that during the blow Wednesday, Sept. 12, two of the young were shaken to the ground, one dying soon

after, but the doctor has rigged up a small bottle and is expecting to be successful in rearing a second family, his son having attained his majority and the degree of D. M. D. from the Harvard Dental College, The old squirrel has been seen but once since the wind storm.

The U. S. Dispensatory gives the spelling of the base of Kephart's lubricant as ozokerite. It also contains the information that bleached by sulfuric acid and filtered through bone charcoal it becomes ceresin, and bottles made of ceresin are used for containing hydrofluoric acid, used for etching on glass. One would hardly expect weather or time to affect a substance which resists the attack of this powerful acid.

We had quite a severe storm recently, and the followIng morning I picked up a young English sparrow which had fallen from the nest and was unable to fly, although fully feathered. Much as I detest the breed, I took it in in preference to leaving it for some stray feline to feast on, for I detest the feline more. My three-year-old was greatly interested in it, and, when it was placed in a basket, could hardly be kept away. The bird had evidently been injured, for it kept still and after a while passed into the state in which I wish all the survivors were; but the first information I had of the fact was when my daughter brought it to me with the request that I "fix it all better, so it will 'tand up." The childish mind was unable to grasp the idea of death, and for once I was obliged to confess that she had set me a task beyond my power to perform.

W. P. Spencer.

## Otter in Woburn

*November 10, 1894.* I have just learned through a correspondent that Mr. Curtis shot an otter in Boxford, Mass., on Friday, November 10, 1894. The frequency with which otter have been killed in Massachusetts during the past two or three years has led many to believe that the animal is not nearly so scarce as was supposed. I heard on good authority that an otter was seen at the Massachusetts Rifle Association swimming in the Aberjona River next to the shooting range in Woburn last year. The animal was shot at several times by a man whose only arm was a small pocket revolver. One of the best specimens of an otter I have seen for a long time was killed within a few miles of Boston about two years ago. Several were killed in New Hampshire last year, and while the animal is by no means common in New England, it is far from being extinct. My correspondent, in writing from Boxford, says foxes and coons are plenty; so are mink. Bobwhite shooting is reported good in the vicinity of woburn.



## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**May 17, 1899.** Anderton is willing to back the shooting qualities of his .38-55 Winchester Schuetzen rifle to the extent of his pocketbook, and if his present gait is maintained, will find few takers.

Last year the ruthless murder of five baby foxes by Dr. Baker was reported, and now another of the M. R. A. has committed the same offense. C. B. Pratt was recently hunting woodchucks, and having badly wounded one, was examining the hole into which it had retreated, when, from the rear entrance, a young fox bolted, only to be stopped for keeps.

**Salem Wilder** was at Walnut Hill May 16, 1899 engaged in testing a .32-40 Ballard rifle, preparatory to mounting a telescope on it, with very nearly four-score years to look back upon. Mr. Wilder is as enthusiastic a rifleman as ever, and is a good illustration of the fascination the king of arms holds over its subjects. Once a rifleman, always one.

May 19 was as disagreeable a day as the members have faced since Washington's birthday. From the noon hour until the last member left for home, the downpour of rain was incessant, and the raw northeast wind did not make matters any better.

This has been about the poorest year so far ever known by Walnut Hill shooters, and all feel that sooner or later a streak of good weather must present itself. Until then we shall relieve our minds by growling.

W. F. Spencer. Chelsea, Mass.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**August 21, 1899.** Once more friend Barlow has bridged the gap, and all users of lubricated bullets have the best of reasons for offering up thanks to the rifle crank's best friend. Being engaged in bullet making as a business, I was informed early in the present year by Mr. Barlow that he was contemplating producing a combined lubricating and sizing machine, and I was happy at having a good piece of news for the eyes of brother Riflemen. A damper was, however, put upon my rejoicing by a later request that no mention be made of it in the columns of *Shooting and Fishing* on account of the extensive correspondence sure to follow. Impatiently I waited, and occasionally received encouraging reports from New Haven, until finally I was 'delighted at receiving a letter containing the welcome news that the machine was about completed, and that the same would soon be shipped to my address, with various dies, etc. It came, and my word for it, received a thorough test before I retired that night. With bullets of calibers from .32 to .45, and I went to bed feeling that at last the missing link had been produced.

I consider this machine the most indispensable article used in bullet making that friend Barlow has given us, with, perhaps, the exception of the Ideal dipper. The dies are most beautifully made, interchange perfectly and with great facility. The machine is strong, light, and powerful, sizing .45 caliber government bullets cast 1 to 16 with little effort, and lubricating perfectly. The most satisfactory manner of lubricating bullets other than by a pump is by rubbing it in, and a hundred bullets greased in this manner and then sized make a good evening's work. With the machine this can be done in ten minutes, and in better shape.

The matter of lubricants to be used is an important one, and governs the performance of the machine to a marked degree. A few remarks from my own experience may not be amiss, as I have been through the whole business with a similar machine, that of Mr. Homes, described in these columns. The most satisfactory way would be to send to the Ideal Co. or to Mr. Leopold, and purchase a supply, which will be found to work finely. I consider the black banana furnished

a little hard; but better too hard than too soft, to those who would experiment I would say, do not use a soft lubricant. With a soft article the bullet-especially if it is a hard one of large caliber-practically drives all the lubricant ahead of it, leaving the die bare and making it almost impossible to either drive the bullet in or get it out, when, after almost ruining the machine, it is finally seated and greased. The same bullet with a heavy grease enters the die so easily as to make one doubt as to whether or not it is full-sized. An experience of some ten thousand .45 caliber government bullets greased in Mr. Homes' machine has proved of considerable benefit to me.

It is also a good plan when through work to relieve the pressure on the lubricant, as an increase of temperature means an expansion of the grease already under pressure and a tremendous strain on the reservoir. During the past week I have lubricated over a thousand bullets of various calibers in mine, and in every case found it to work finely.

As Mr. Barlow says, "Anyone using this implement will never go back to the old way," and he will also wonder how he ever got along without it. As for price, it is wonderfully low, as I have reason to know, having had some experience in fitting a die to Mr. Homes' pump. It cost me as much for the die roughed out as the finished Ideal die costs, and then I had to send it to Mr. Barlow to be reamed to the proper size, besides doing lot of work on it myself. No rifle or revolver shooter will make any mistake in acquiring one of these machines, and the satisfactory part is, that the dies and moulds being made by the same firm, and ordered by number, are sure to fit. Besides my-self, Eastman, Anderton, and Homes have been made happy, and others are expecting to be likewise.

W. P. Spencer. Chelsea, Mass.

## An Amateur Revolver Record

**June 30, 1900.** Another revolver record was established at Walnut Hill, Mass., at the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association. It was by Thomas Anderton, the well-known marksman of that association. The shooting was done on a regular club shooting day, under the supervision of the range officers. Mr. Anderton fired with a revolver 100 consecutive shots at a range of 50 yards on the Standard American target. and scored 903 points. He shot a Colt New Service revolver, .44 caliber, and Peters Cartridge Co.'s new factory midrange revolver cartridges charged with King's Semi-Smokeless powder. The score of 903 points is the highest known record for 100 shots with revolver by an amateur under the foregoing conditions. This aggregate has been surpassed by professional shots, F. E. Bennett scoring 914 points under similar conditions, W. W. Bennett also scored 915 points in practice, but not being shot in a club meeting the score is not recognized generally as a record. Mr. Anderton will soon endeavor to break his own record.



## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**June 16, 1899.** The spring meeting was most thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present, and although the attendance was not as large as had been hoped for, those present made up in enthusiasm and good fellowship what was lacking in numbers. Tom Anderton was the star of the shoot, and walked off with two first and one second prize, his highest score in the off-hand match being on ticket No. 1, a start calculated to bother those arriving later.

The scores show a decided improvement from the 1896 meeting, when 222 took first, and 220 second prize in the Standard American match, Anderton making the former, and Kelley the latter total. This year a shooter with the former, would have been in seventh place, and I took ninth place with the latter score, fully illustrating the remark in last week's issue of *Shooting and Fishing*, on the attempt of Dr. Sayre to act as executive officer and shoot. The atmosphere in the vicinity of the best five men was decidedly warm, and a score with a shot out of the bull was of little use to the maker.

**H. M. Pope** came on from the shoot at Dunmore, Pa., and on the first day shot in very ragged form. A night's rest braced him up for the second day, and there was blood in his eye when he secured his tickets. Anderton, however, pulled up his total three points, and was safe, but the others gradually were passed until he had second place solid.

**Humphrey and Tuck** see-sawed back and forth, until late the second day Tuck got a 47, which beat Humphrey one point, and Tuck triumphantly waved the ticket in his face. Not to be stumped, Humphrey finished the score he was shooting, and got a 48, which turned the tables on Tuck, and beat him in turn by one point, whereupon Tuck went to pistol shooting.

**J. E. Kelley** was more than half sick with a severe cold, and shot very few scores, which, however, landed him in sixth place.

**Judge E. J. Cram** was present, accompanied by his 28 lb. featherweight, which he shot at the last Bundesfest, I should hate to have the judge sentence me to shoot that arm for one day.

The rest scores were also higher than the 1896 scores, Hanson, Thompson, and Baker being tied for first place, with 291. In 1896, 287, 285, and 284 took first, second, and third places.

The single shot match on the Columbia target created no end of fun, and as each contestant went to the firing point, he was attended by a crowd of admiring competitors to help out his courage. The match was intended for but one day, but proved so popular, that after the conclusion of the regular shooting at 4:30, on the second day, another match was shot to fill in the time required to complete the classification of scores.

The precaution was taken to sell all the tickets first, as it was recognized that if a 1 was made early in the match, the others might change their minds. Sure enough, S. O. Merville, the fourth or fifth man to shoot, whacked in a 1, which left him in a good place from whence to watch the procession.

**E. E. Patridge** fully fulfilled my prophecy, and quit shooting on the first day, with a 50 and four 49's.

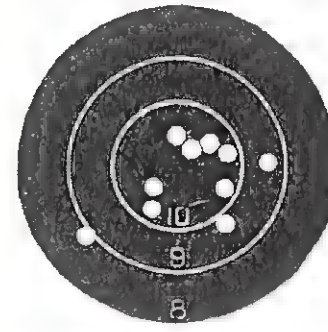
**Anderton** shot a 48 and 47 off hand, consecutively, showing what the man who aspired to first place was up against. Tom has a lot of bullets all ready for Sea Girt, and they will not all get out of the bull either.

June 23 was a good day for practice in judging wind, and at times, the question was, "which side is it on?" The wind dial indicated one direction, and each flag a different one, and showed also a different force than its neighbor. Finally, making up his mind, the unfortunate adjusted his wind and elevation, and holding to the best of his ability, let go. If he held for a 6 and got it, he was

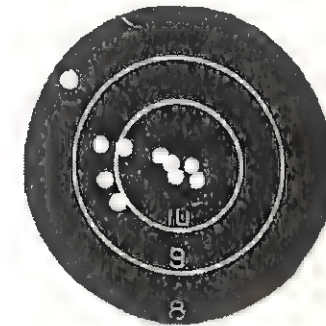
lucky, but more often a 6 or 7 resulted, and such a thing as a man getting better than he held, was almost unheard of.

I think it was one of the worst days on which I ever shot, I had much rather face two or three points from almost any direction, than one of those light, deceptive breezes, which blow from any and all directions. One-half a point was the most I had on at any time, and for the greater part, it was one-fifth or less. However, a goodly portion of the time, even this was on the wrong side, so changeable was the wind.

To score 97, 96, 96 with a pistol at 50 yards is something unusual, but E. E. Patridge, who performed this creditable feat the other day, is capable of making the very finest scores with either pistol or revolver at the distance named. His three scores are shown herewith, but in reduced form, of course. These fine scores were shot June 16 in the All-comers' pistol match at the Massachusetts Rifle Association range at Walnut Hill. The 97 is the highest score ever made by Mr. Patridge at 50 yards with a pistol, his high score previous to that time being 96. He used a Smith & Wesson pistol which has a triggerpull of 2 1/2 pounds. His ammunition was U. M. C. .22 caliber longrifle, but the bullets were coated with cylinder oil just prior to inserting them in the chamber. Mr. Patridge will be fifty-three years of age on the day when the nation celebrates its independence, but he is good for many high scores in the future, judging from his many brilliant performances this season. In the associations spring match meeting he scored 50 in five shots at 50 yards with his pistol, following this with four scores of 49.



Mr. Patridge's score of 97.



Mr. Patridge's score of 95.



Mr. Patridge's score of 96.



Smith & Wesson .44 caliber revolver



## Lubricating Wads

**July 27, 1900.** A friend kindly sent me some of E. A. Leopold's oleo lubricating wads, requesting me to give them a trial. I complied by using them in my .38 caliber shells in five-shot groups, alternating with five using Dr. Skinner's plastic lubricating wads, and transferred the groups to a Columbia target, which I submit for the inspection of those who are interested. The five with a + were Skinner's.

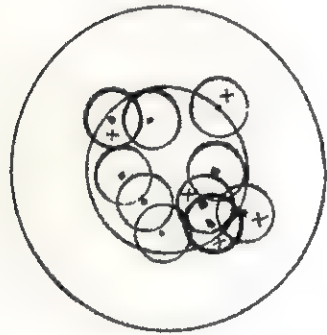
On July 27, I shot ten fiberclad bullets in succession, using Dr. Skinner's plastic lubricating wads over powder. distance 100 yards. This score was shot on the Columbia target as illustrated. The same day and under the same conditions I shot without using any wads, and the result was not satisfactory.

When looking over the scores made by Miss Schenck and E. A. Leopold, and the remarks of W. F. Spencer in *Shooting and Fishing* in connection with my own experience, I can but have faith in the oleo and plastic lubricating wads.

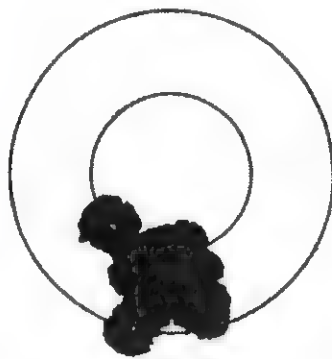
W. F. Spencer says: "The only clean score I ever made was while trying some of the oleo, and that Dr. Baker is fully convinced of the value of the lubricating wads." Dr. Baker is a marksman of keen observation and quick to catch on to a good point.

I use Hazard's FG powder in most of my work, and find that since I began using the plastic lubricating wads my rifle may be cleansed with much less time and labor. As an illustration of this I submit a score I shot in thirteen minutes, wiping after each shot. While shooting this score I did not know was being timed.

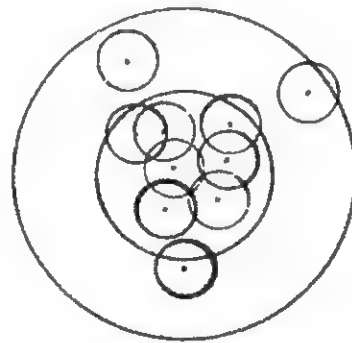
Medicus.



Ten shots at 100 yards. Bullets fiber clad. Five with + Skinner's plastic wad over powder; five without + Leopold's Oleo wad. They were consecutive, but on at separate Targets.



Ten shots, .35-50-330, 100 yards. Bullets fiber clad. Skinner's plastic wads. July 27, 1900



Ten shots at 100 yards. Bullets fiber clad. Skinner's plastic wads, Shot at rest in thirteen minutes. July 23, 1900

## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**August 11, 1900.** Salem Wilder has many sympathizers in his misfortune in spoiling two rest rifles on two consecutive shooting days. The first day he complained of the loss of a Fisher cleaner, and my private opinion at the time was, that he had shot it away; but procuring another, he proceeded with his shooting, and soon after missed the second brush. Looking into the breech end of the barrel I detected a shadow which looked odd, and reversing the rifle, discovered an undoubted ring about six inches from the muzzle; indeed, the outside of the barrel was bulged. On the following shooting day Mr. Wilder appeared with another rifle, and announced that to prevent a repetition of the previous performance, he intended looking through the barrel at each shot before seating his bullet. This worked finely for a time, but he soon remarked, "Well, I've lost another brush, and this is the first time I have neglected to look through the barrel." An examination disclosed another ring, precisely like that of the preceding Wednesday, and another barrel needed shortening. Mr. Wilder stated that in forty years' shooting he had never done such a thing before.

The M. R. A. has received a valuable addition to its ranks in the person of A. Niedner, formerly of St. Louis and Milwaukee. He shoots a .33 caliber Pope barrel in a Ballard action, which combination weighed so I was told about 17 pounds. The receiver is most beautifully engraved, and the work was executed by the owner. A. Law—who is about as competent to judge of such work as I know of—stated to me that he did not believe there was a professional engraver in Boston who could do as fine a piece of engraving as this. Kelley, Niedner, Merville, and I went to Springfield to attend the annual shoot of the South New England Schuetzenbund, and, barring the heat and the cars and trains, which kept Niedner and I awake nearly all of Monday night, we had a first-class time.

The association will hold an all day shoot on Labor day, and for those who may feel like attending, I append the following information regarding trains: Nominally, the only trains are the 8:32, 10:04, 12:00 and 2:00. The 8:32 goes to Montvale. The Walnut Hill station does not appear on the schedule of the 10:04 train, but for members desiring to go there, the rear car is detached at Montvale and run as a special to Walnut Hill. The 12:00 and 2:00 trains are direct. The above is the usual list, but for those who miss the above, there are the following:

The 9:00, 12:10 and 1:07 trains go to Woburn, and the fare is the same. From Woburn Centre there are the Reading cars, leaving at fifteen minutes before the hour and passing the entrance to the range, and the through line, leaving on the hour and half-hour, which pass the Walnut Hill station and then turn to the right, at which place the turn-visitors will leave the cars and follow the straight road, taking about five minutes to reach the driveway leading to the range. It requires about ten minutes for the electric's to reach Walnut Hill station from Woburn Centre. The 12:10 makes a very close connection, as it is scheduled to arrive at Woburn Centre at 12:44, and the car leaves at 12:45. but the others give ample time.

Although it seemed that about all that could be desired was found in the original Ideal lubricating and sizing machine, some few weak spots were developed by use and misuse. The excessive pressure employed by some stripped the thread from the top of the reservoir, and in one case the cap broke. That this was unnecessary I firmly believe, as I had no trouble with mine, and I probably used it as much as did the owners of any five or even more machines sent out. Still such must be provided for, and instead of strengthening the parts, as might have been looked for, Mr. Barlow proceeded on totally different lines, and has got out his improved machine in a totally different form. In the old form a collar on the pressure screw bore against the cap which



screwed over the reservoir and put an immense strain upon that part, which, if carried to excess, stripped the thread. The improved I implement has the screw reversed, and instead of pushing against the top, the screw pulls from the bottom, the cap being simply dropped on and merely acting as a sort of cover and bearing for the top end of the screw, a 5 1/2-inch lever replaces the hand wheel, allowing the pressure to be applied much more easily. There is not a weak spot in the new article, and it seems impossible to break it without using a hammer. It is also much easier to fill than the former model, as the screw always remains in the reservoir. In practice it works finely, the extra power afforded by the lever in place of the hand wheel being very noticeable and welcome, I have only had time to grease a few hundred bullets with it as yet, but am delighted with it. Mr. Barlow tells me that old machines cannot be altered to the present form.

In place of raising the inside punch to wipe off surplus lubricant, a better and easier way is to relieve the pressure on reservoir, place a bullet in the 1 die I keep one for this especial use-and put a heavy pressure on the sizing lever. This will force whatever is between the base of bullet and punch back into the reservoir. This trouble is usually ex-experienced when first operating the machine, while the lubricant is hard. After from twenty-five to fifty bullets have been greased there will usually be no trouble, except with very large bullets with the bases chamfered off.

Regarding lubricant; It will not pay any rifleman, however cranky, to bother with home-made lubricant when E. A. Leopold's Standard can be obtained, it has the best staying qualities of any thing I ever saw, and I have spent much time and dollars in monkeying with various compounds which, although good, are not to be compared with the Standard, I have bullets greased with this last April which cannot be distinguished from those finished yesterday, and. I do not see why this should not apply for an indefinite space of time. Then it leaves the inside of the barrel in such splendid shape that a bullet on which it is used can be seated easily, while the same bullet greased with a lighter compound, such as tallow, or Japan wax and vaseline, etc., could not be seated without a great deal of labor. There is a body to this, superior to anything I have ever seen, while its high melting point is by no means the least of its good qualities.

A new and valuable addition to the ranks of the pistol shooters is A. S. Knight, who recently became a member of the M. R. A., and during the short space of time since joining he has won about every-thing in the shape of a medal offered for pistol shooting. He is just finishing up his scores for the gold medals. He, shoots a Stevens Gould model pistol, and is a remarkably steady shooter, rarely dropping below 86.

Just now I am feeling provoked over the possible 97 I had Aug. 11, I had decided to adopt a palm rest and put one on the rifle. I shot seven scores with it, ranging from 77 to 81, and getting mad, took it off, and shooting as formerly made an 83. Then putting in the last ticket, I had a possible 97 with three shots to fire, and got out of bullets. I had a few with the grease all dried up, and shooting one of these got a 7 just where I held it, at 10 o'clock, but with a perfect hold I got a 6 with the next at o'clock. Borrowing one of my own newly -made bullets from a member, and observing that the wind had lightened a bit, I took off two inches of wind, got a perfect hold, and touched the trigger. Had I let the wind alone I should have got what I held for, a center 12, but it had breezed up again while I held, and I missed the 10 at 3 o'clock by about inch, and thus ended the only chance I ever had of making a good score, As it was I had a run of 93 in ten shots, counting the last three on the preceding score.

My reason for attempting the adoption of a palm rest was that for two days after my return from Springfield I was unable to close the fingers of my right hand fully, from the strain caused

by shooting my 12 1/2-pound rifle from the finger tips. I never was so bothered before, and do not see why I should have been then, but my fingers are still stiff.

W. F. Spencer. Chelsea, Mass.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

**September 1, 1900.** I recently stated that A. Niedner had been a resident of St. Louis, having judged as much from conversations on the subject of rifle matches in which he mentioned prizes he had won in that city, but I find I am in error, as he simply visited there to enter the contest. Niedner recently showed me a group shot with his .33 caliber Pope at 200 yards, machine rest, which is the best I ever saw. The ten shots will go comfortably inside the standard 12 ring, and of the shots form a 1 inch group.

**J. E. Kelley and Dr. Baker** with their better halves have been visiting Medicus to assist in gathering his chuck crop.

Recently, wishing to cast some hunting bullets, I gathered up some old bullets dug from the back stops and picking out the target bullets, melted them, There were rest bullets, Pope, factory and Ideal bullets of various calibers from .28 to the .45 patched which Willard used some time since. Temper was unknown but was afterward found to be about 1 to 32. Having cast the hunting bullets, I cast some 75 in a new mould which I had touched up a bit, just to see how it was working, and they looked so well I finally greased 25 of them to try at the range. The first 25 shots I fired September 1, 1900 were with these, and I was rather surprised at the results which were as follows:

8 8 5 9 9 8 7 10 8 9=81  
10 9 8 8 10 10 10 9 9 9=92  
7 9 10 10 10

Only one shot out of the 7 ring. It may have been that the various rest and Pope bullets had found the road to the bull's-eye, and preferred to keep to it, but I never expected to get such shooting from old junk. It rather put a damper on my previously exact methods of carefully weighing out portions of tin and lead to the fraction of an ounce. The first score would have been several points better but for the fact that I had made a change in powder, and my rifle shot several inches low, requiring to be resighted on that score.

The ease and speed with which bullets may be handled in the Ideal lubricating machine, after one becomes accustomed to operating it, rather surprise one, On one occasion last week I lubricated 500 military 500-grain bullets in one hour and ten minutes. This included packing in boxes of 25, to do which the covers had to be removed and replaced, and also refilling the machine, one filling lubricating about 425 of these bullets. The side rods are usually so well lined up that after a short use, the friction in the bearings is insufficient to keep the lever up, and it is always in the way. To obviate this, take one or two small rubber bands, place over the heads of the bottom connection screws, and then pull the middle up and over the head of the set-screw which holds the knock-out punch.

An easier method of changing dies than that given by friend Barlow, is: Remove top punch. Take out die set-screw and place same point up on bottom connection. Lift up on lever, and the die



come nearly out, place the other die in the seat, replace top punch, and force die into place with the lever.

If all the riflemen who load their own ammunition could use one of these machines for half an hour, the Ideal company would be swamped with orders.

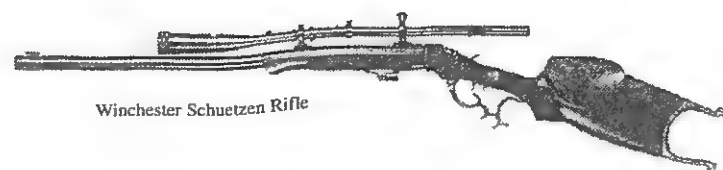
**Thomas, Anderton** left Sept. 1 for Sea Girt, in company with the rifle team of battery B, First Heavy Artillery, M. V. M., of which he is a member. What with military and schuetzen rifles, and numerous revolvers, with ammunition for all, he was recently told that he would need a special car to hold it all. More power to him.

Ill luck in the shape of burglars seems to have settled on J. T. Humphrey. A break into the clubhouse at Walnut Hill some three years ago relieved him of some \$125 worth of shooting arms, and now on Aug. 20, returning from a yachting trip lasting two weeks, he found his residence at Jamaica Plain had been ransacked from top to bottom, and silverware, bricabrac, etc., to the value of about \$1,000 stolen.

The powers that be, in arranging the matches at Sea Girt, have gone from one extreme to the other. First came the silhouette target, upon which a man might almost score with rocks, and now come the reverse in the military revolver matches, with a elliptical bull's-eye at 50 and 75 yards. Ye Gods! By no possibility, except that of absolute bull luck, can a man make a clean score on those targets in 30 seconds, the time allowed in the team match, and as for the 15 seconds' time limit in the Military Championship match, it simply means aiming at the top of the 75 yards target and shoot lug as fast as possible. It strikes the writer that a rational target should be one that will allow a man to have a reasonable chance of making a decent score, but that is simply an impossibility under the above conditions. When one of the most expert revolver shots in the country misses the target five consecutive times, something is surely amiss. This I personally saw, and at the same time other fine shots, who had considerable practice at this range, were getting from 3 to 6 shots out of ten on the target in the 30 second time limit.

Better make it a contest to see who can discharge the greatest number of rounds in a given time.

Chelsea, MASS. W. F. Spencer.



Winchester Schuetzen Rifle

## Rabbeth's Reel

**September 15, 1900.** F. J. Rabbeth, the well-known rifleman, has been in California for some time past. It is quite generally known among the rifle shooting fraternity that Mr. Rabbeth is in the true sense of the word an inventive genius. He originated a cotton spindle which has brought him fame and fortune, this invention being ranked as one of the greatest ever made in connection with the textile industry. Mr. Rabbeth has made a number of inventions of interest to sportsmen, one of which is the Ideal powder flask, which is in such general use.

Of late years Mr. Rabbeth has developed quite a fondness for fishing, and recently he visited the famous Catalina Island. While there he attempted to capture a tuna, and it is reported that while fishing he lost the nail of one thumb by a whack of the reel handle. This accident inspired him to invent a new brake for fishing reels, and we learn from the inventor that the improvement consists in having a frictional connection between the reel crank and the spool, so that the crank never needs to be let go off until the fish is gaffed. The tension can be adjusted to any size of tackle, and when properly adjusted neither reel, rod, line nor the angler's finger can be broken. Mr. Rabbeth says it makes heavy fishing easy and safe, and adds greatly to the pleasure of it. Patents have been applied for and the inventor expects to have his improvement on the market in four months.

It is reported that among the first trials of this reel brake Mr. Rabbeth captured a 240 pound jew fish nineteen minutes after the strike again he landed two jew fish weighing 264 and 285 pounds respectively, it taking thirty and seventeen minutes to land his fish. He also took, using his new attachment, 29 albacore and two bonito.

But the supreme test of this new invention was the capture of the record jew fish on Sept. 15 by Fred A. Hamsch and Harry Bates, at Avalon, Cal. The fish weighed 405 pounds. The rod was broken in landing the fish, which prevented the Tuna club from considering the fish in its prize contests. The largest jew fish recorded previous to this weighed 384 pounds, and was captured by a Mr. Schenck. It is stated that on the day of the capture of the 405 pound jew fish, Messrs. Hamsch and Bates first hooked and killed a 210 pound fish, which was landed in seventeen minutes. The fishing was resumed when Mr. Hamsch had another strike. After playing the fish for some time he passed the rod to Mr. Bates, who played the fish three quarters of an hour when the rod broke just below the reel seat. Mr. Hamsch then took the rod and succeeded in reeling in the fish. Credit for capturing this fish is largely due to Mr. Rabbeth's brake attachment.



Winchester single shot Rifle



## Nathan S. Harrington

**May 6, 1900.** On the beautiful Sunday morning of May 6, 1900 our beloved Uncle Nathan passed peacefully and pain lessly "over the river just out of sight." His age was eighty-five years, three months and eight days. With no acute disease, he died of old age. The collapse came June 21 last, when his family and friends believed he could last but a few days, but the wish he had so often expressed, that he might go suddenly, was not to be gratified. With a constitution of iron, he was no easy victim to the grim messenger, though happily, with the exception of a few short intervals, he was not a great sufferer in his long illness. Much of the time he was able to be dressed-and sit in his easy chair, and he greatly enjoyed the many calls of his numerous friends. Once during the past winter he was lifted into a sleigh and driven over to the north grounds, where many foxes had fallen to his gun, hoping to once more hear the baying of the hounds. It was a bright, sunny afternoon, and he enjoyed the ride very much, though he failed to get within hearing of the drive.

With the somewhat lengthy biographical sketch of this venerable sportsman which appeared in this journal several years ago, together with my frequent mention of him in my correspondence, Uncle Nathan will hardly seem a stranger to readers of this journal.

He was probably the most widely known sportsman in central Massachusetts, and it is quite certain there never was one more beloved. Possessed of a genial, happy disposition, he was ever ready to welcome brother sportsmen to his little workshop where for more than forty years he made jointed fishing rods, and many readers now scattered over the country will remember their pleasant calls there and his cordial hospitality with the inevitable dish of apples and pitcher of cider.

Mr. Harrington loved outdoor life, and having accumulated enough to satisfy every reasonable want, he believed he saw something better in life than wealth, and while he was a thrifty, industrious man, he during the past fifty years devoted much time to the pursuit of the sports he so much loved. He was an excellent wing shot, an expert angler, and one of the most successful fox hunters in New England. During the last twenty-five years of his active life I have enjoyed his intimate and unbroken-friendship, as well as his companionship in hunting and fishing. He was an ideal sportsman, a loyal friend, and an honest man. Truly such as he elevate sportsmanship.



## Once A Sportsman Always One

**April 26, 1899.** When, some three years since, I reluctantly left the State of Maine for business reasons, I gave up all idea of indulging any more in my favorite pastime of burning powder in rifle, gun, and pistol, and practically denied myself since that time the greatest pleasure that could possibly come to me. I even went so far as to dispose of quite all of my firearms, retaining only a favorite Ballard, and cutting off my subscriptions to sportsmen's literature, feeling that if I did not do so, the hankering to get out and enjoy the life I loved so well would fill me with unhappiness. I carefully avoided reading anything on the subject for more than two years, but one day last week, as I passed a sidewalk news stand on my way to business in Boston, my eye caught sight of the Nov. 17 issue of *Shooting and Fishing*.

Resistance was useless; the old feeling instantly possessed me. I carried off a copy, and I can truthfully say that for many a day no 10-cent silver piece has given me so much satisfaction. That night in my cosy corner at home, I was completely lost to my family and every one else, Not a line escaped me, and when I read in the fixtures that an all-day shoot at Walnut Hill was on for Thanksgiving day, my cup of joy was filled to overflowing. It is need-les to say I went and enjoyed it, notwithstanding that since my last visit there my eyes have aged to the extent that I was forced to use the glasses I have lately found necessary for reading, to arrange my sights.

The boys were outstripping me, of course, in records, nevertheless none there could possibly have found more enjoyment than I did. Today, while a howling blizzard rages without, I have gone over every inch of the old pet, fussed with it until I cannot see anything in it but perfection, and as I laid it away in the wooden case I had made for it years ago, that it might sleep well, my thoughts went back to the first issue of this paper, when it bore the name of *The Rifle*, and I tried to realize how many changes have taken place in methods and ammunition since even then, to say nothing of the time when I first began to shoot, some forty years ago. I am happy again in the fact that my love for the sport is still intact, and live in the hope that I may have opportunities to indulge to my heart's content for many days yet.

Grammery. Milford, Mass.

Another monster moose has been killed in Maine. It was shot near Ashland by George D. Pike, of Boston. The antlers, It is reported, have twenty., nine points and spread 60 inches.



No. 16, Maynard Rifle Model 1882.



## The Catlin Carr System of Fire Arms

**1899.** This system of fire arms is the result of a great deal of labor and experimenting by two expert American mechanics. Howard Carr, one of the inventors, who is mainly responsible for bringing this system to its apparent state of perfection, is a California rifleman of national reputation and an artisan whose skill we regard highly. He is a resident of San Francisco. During the past two or three years we have heard much of this invention, but it was not until recently that we had the pleasure of looking into it, and from our investigations we have become much impressed with it. By this system the recoil of the arm when discharged performs the operations of unlocking and opening the breech, ejecting the empty shell, recharging the gun by transferring a fresh cartridge to the chamber, securely locking the breechblock and cocking the hammer.

These several operations, it is estimated, occupy about one-eighteenth part of a second, consequently the operator can fire these guns as rapidly as he can work his trigger finger. It is asserted that one familiar with arms of this type can fire five shots a second. By this system one pressure of the trigger will produce a continuous and uninterrupted fire of great rapidity until the cartridges are exhausted, but such a feature is undesirable in an arm for the sportsman, and desirable only under peculiar circumstances in what is classed as a machine gun, or gun fired from a tripod.

The energy of recoil which we have referred to as performing the various operations is absorbed and utilized to such an extent, the inventors claim, as to greatly reduce recoil of the arm, which enables one to shoot a lighter gun with greater accuracy than in arms where the recoil must be taken by weight of the arm and support on the shoulder.

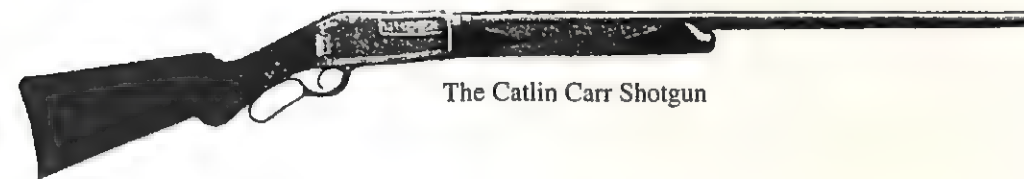
The Catlin-Carr system may be applied to shotgun, rifle, pistol, the type of arms known as machine guns. Arms of this system have not yet been manufactured in quantity, but working models in the form of a rifle, a shotgun, and an automatic machine gun have been finished and have been exhibited privately before fire arms experts and others. Illustrations showing a rifle and a shotgun are here shown. In order to secure a light and symmetrical appearing fire arm, such as a sportsman would use in the field or at the trap, the magazines hold but five cartridges; a magazine of any size can be employed if the foregoing features are not essential. The cartridge in the chamber is fired, and in the fraction of a second, as soon as the gas pressure in the barrel has ceased, the arm is recharged and hammercocked. In case of a misfire, the lever is thrown down and the arm is recharged in the usual manner of lever operating magazine arms.

In the machine gun type of this system the gun weighs ten pounds and its mount twelve pounds. It shoots the .30-40 Krag-Jorgensen cartridge and the .236 Lee Naval cartridge. The present magazine holds 350 cartridges. The magazine can be removed and replaced and firing resumed in ten seconds. The machine gun, it is claimed, can be used on the skirmish line with great effect, as its light weight permits of its being placed expeditiously at a point of vantage and firing begun. The fire can be regulated, stopped or resumed at will. A skilled marksman, the inventors say, can fire 120 shots a minute deliberately aimed, and 60 per cent centers or better secured in shooting at a target at 500 yards; with less accuracy 300 shots a minute can be fired.

This system of fire arms is now being shown by W. C. Price, of San Francisco, Cal.



The Catlin Carr Rifle



The Catlin Carr Shotgun

## A New Bullet 1899

**1899.** The Ideal Manufacturing Co., of New Haven, Conn., is now ready to supply the market with molds for the new bullet as herewith illustrated and described. The points of its superiority will be readily recognized by those who shoot at target, or expert riflemen, desirous of securing the highest score at the range. It is of the proper caliber, and is especially designed for rifles, using the well known .38-55 Marlin and Winchester ammunition. The size of the bullet as cast will be a trifle above standard, so that it can be sized after being lubricated to .375 in diameter. The shape of the point from the first band or crimping shoulder is identical with .38-330 Marlin, which is shorter than the standard .38-55-255 Marlin. The bands are narrower than the regular 255-grain bullet. The grooves are also narrower and are cut square and deeper, thus holding the lubrication better and more of it. These smaller divisions of the bearing permits a better distribution of the lubrication in the barrel, which prevents leading and it also, enables the bullet to be inserted into the barrel with a much less pressure, while the extra width of the base band following the lubrication prevents gas cutting, which deforms the base of the bullet, thus deflecting its flight. The broad base band also prevents a stronger bearing to hold on the rifling, all of which is beneficial to regularity and accuracy in the shooting. The company states that it is also prepared to furnish its perfection adjustable molds for this bullet, which will enable the user to cast the whole variety of lighter weights as designated by the figures in the illustration. The company will also make single molds of the different weight bullets that may be ordered. The lighter ones are spoken of as being very fine for light charges, short range target work, and small game. It interested further corresponds with the company.



132  
153  
177  
195  
215  
237  
256  
300



## The 1899 Fox Hunt

Dedicated to Worcester Fur Company, by Charles E. H. Higgins; set to music by Charles F. Hanson, and sung at the banquet of the club by C. Albert Gray and male quartette.

The crisp October days are here;  
 'Tis time to hunt the fox.  
 We'll trail through woods and pastures bare,  
 And o'er the moss grown rocks.  
 We'll climb old Shrewabury's rugged hills,  
 We'll follow close the hounds.  
 Getup! put on your hunting togs,  
 The bugle call resounds.

Chorus:

We must get away, away, away at dawn.  
 We must early start to trail o'er jagged rocks,  
 Now the hounds are straining madly  
 On the chains they'd break right gladly,  
 In their furious impatience  
 To hunt the wily fox.

Leave office, store, or factory,  
 Whate'er your work may be;  
 Come out, tis time to hunt some more,  
 And roam in sunshine free.  
 Shake off that old time lethargy,  
 You're feeling like a log.  
 Awake, and get a hustle on,  
 Bring on your famous dog.  
 Chorus. We must get away, etc.

Bring Rove, old Clinker, Orator,  
 Duke, Ranger, and John R.  
 Fleet Toney Music, Rock and Rye,  
 Bring on your favorite star;  
 Bring Popple, Logan, Pelter, Sport-  
 The voices sharp or blunt  
 Of thirty foxhounds then will blend  
 In a rousing Fur Club Hunt.  
 CHORUS. We must get away, etc.

Get out your modern Winchester,  
 Or double Parker gun,  
 A Colt or Forehand Hammerless,  
 Come out and see the fun  
 Rub up your ancient I fav'rite Irons  
 Of different makes and bores.  
 Bring on your black and nitro loads-  
 Come on, let's get out doors.  
 CHORUS. We must get away, etc.

Throw off your cares for just a day,  
 Contented roam with me,  
 And when you're tired we'll sprawl around  
 Beneath the Old Oak tree  
 We'll eat our lunch and smoke our pipes,  
 And sing a song of praise,  
 And have the feelings that we had  
 When In our boyhood days.  
 CHORUS. We must get away, etc.

## Walnut Hil Gleaning's

**May 7, 1899.** An incubator, These are destined later to be offered up as spring chickens, but just now they are about the cunningest little balls of down imaginable. Later they will grow a few feathers and plenty of legs, and the interest for me will have departed until they fulfill their destiny. The little things must have had a frigid time of it on Thursday and Friday nights, when the temperature was at the freezing point, but they were running around as lively as crickets Saturday.

A good number of new members has been added to the Massachusetts Rifle Association recently, and the most gratifying part is that they are all shooters and bound to get there.

The Boston Press Rifle Association has a continuous match in progress, and nearly every Wednesday finds a number of the members at Walnut Hill. The mid-weekly shoots are a boon to these riflemen, who are, of course, almost universally on Saturday with the Sunday editions of their respective papers and unable to get away. I recently noted one of these shooters apparently having a hard time of it, and an investigation disclosed that he was shooting a .32-40 Winchester rifle, with a 31947 bullet cast the full length of the adjustable mold, about 210 grains, and something less than 40 grains of FG powder without a nitro priming, He was getting 3's 4's, and 5's on the Standard target with great regularity, and seemed dissatisfied. Loaning him some nitro powder and 175-grain bullets, with instructions to put some of the former at the bottom and one of the latter at the top of his black powder, I soon had the satisfaction of seeing him make a 9.

**F. E. Bennett**, as noted in *Shooting and Fishing*, is emphatically still on earth, and has been at the range a number of times recently. Mr. Kendall informed me that Mr. Bennett made a 95 while practicing last week, which would seem to show that he has lost none of his skill.

Members of the association have been rendered nervous in past years by the sight of the military shooters at the 500 yards shelter shooting by the end of the clubhouse, and the thought of what a premature discharge might mean was enough to make many move down the loading benches out of the line of sight. Among the recent improvements are bullet stops, which completely shelter the house and make it impossible for a bullet to find its way there from the 500 and 600 yards pavilions.

Chelsea, Mass. W. P. Spencer

## Boston Press Rifle Associations

October 12, 1881

Among the numerous designs which have been submitted for our inspection there have been many chaste and beautiful; but the one recently adopted by the Boston press rifle association, which, through the courtesy of that organization, we are permitted to illustrate herewith, while perhaps less artistic, is noticeable for the sentiment expressed thereon. The designing of this emblem was the work of a lady attache of the *Boston Transcript*, and it is the opinion of all who have seen this work that she has expressed as much poetry and sentiment in the few well-chosen words as could be told in a volume.





## Walnut Hill Gleaning's

*April 21, 1899.* J. E. Kelley's consecutive scores of 16 and 17 at 50 yards on the Columbia target April 21, 1899 show that the short range shooters are getting down to business, and it is expected that another notch will be taken off the record before the match closes; indeed, Dr. Baker and Humphrey have a small wager up on it, the doctor betting that the winning ten scores will be 15's or better.

**Dr. Baker's** penchant for odd, effective, and original appliances has lately revealed itself in a powder measure. It consists of a No. 6 Ideal measure, both sides of which are fitted with the 1899 attachment for small charges. He has replaced the iron funnels with covered mica gas lamp chimneys, which allow the powder to be seen through their transparent sides. The conical funnel on the back has been replaced by a covered brass tube with a small mica section let in, with this the doctor has been using multiple charges in his Pope rifle, the 1899 attachments allowing the divided charge to be adjusted with great exactness.

Although I have been convinced that the 375200 bullet was extremely accurate, it was not until April 28, 1899 that it was most fully proved. Wishing to test it at rest, and believing that an expert rest shot could most fully accomplish the same, I submitted it to Dr. Baker, and he kindly agreed to shoot it in my rifle, precisely as I shoot it offhand, I loading the shell for him. Peep and globe sights were used, with an aperture disk in the latter.

The first six or eight shots demonstrated the fact that the bullet was holding elevations perfectly; in fact, Mr. Chase, who was watching the target through the glass, said the elevations were better than with his own rifle and patched bullets. No attempt was made to follow the wind, and the bullet holes were strung out in a line across the bull's-eye. After some twelve or fourteen shots a new center was pasted to the target by the corners for preservation and a score of ten shots fired at it, after which it was brought to the house. Much satisfaction was shown by all at the result, but it was not until I had time to examine and measure it at home that the full extent of the load's accuracy was shown. As before said, no attempt was made at judging wind the test simply being for elevation. With the exception of two shots which were slightly low and were called one being held purposely so-parallel lines 1 inch apart touch all the holes, and with the above two the variation is but 1 3/4 inches. Six of the holes would be easily cut by lines 3/8 inch apart. It will thus be seen that had the wind been judged correctly the score would have been easily inside the 11 ring, with eight 12's and two 11's, counting 118 on the rest target. The charge was 40 grains Rifle Cartridge No. 3, primed with 6 grains hulk of DuPont's No. 1, Bullet was seated in the shell on powder, and the rifle was shot dirty. About sixty shots had been fired previous to this score without cleaning, Bullets 1 to 30, banana lubricant. Wind, to 5 o'clock.

I was previously satisfied that the bullet and rifle were doing good work, but am particularly pleased at the results obtained by Dr. Baker.

The pistol firing points proving too small to accommodate all who wished to shoot at 50, 25, and 20 yards, the association is having another shelter erected at the right of the old targets for 25 yards shooting. Additional targets are to be erected for this range, which is entirely separate from the pistol range.

**J. T. Humphrey** and **Dr. Baker** tried Laflin & Rand Sporting Rifle Smokeless in a .25 caliber rifle at the 50-yard targets yesterday with very satisfactory results. Judging from the scores on the Columbia target.

W. F. Spencer.

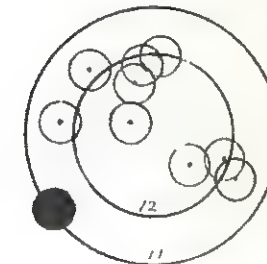
## Medicus made Eleven Rifle Shooting 1899

Medicus went to the range one day  
With his Winchester thirty-eight,  
His paraphernalia all in gear,  
And everything up to date.  
Three hundred and thirty his bullets' weight,  
Their temper sixteen to one.  
Clad with red fiber he made himself,  
He smiled at the thought of such fun.  
His shells from Skinner's flask were filled,  
His powder was Hazard's Fg.  
Fifty-five grains In each were placed,  
"For she measures correctly," said he.  
Convex, concave, were his paraffin wads  
And his primers U. M. C.;  
One hundred and twenty was his theme,  
"For I shoot pretty well," said he.  
His muzzle in Baker's rest he set  
With his Swiss buttplate In its place;  
And Medicus' heart did palpitate  
When his eye met the target's face.

And like peeping Tom he sat peeping  
At dear lady twelve through the 'scope.  
The target's eye was his lady dear,  
And to hit it his aim and hope.

He fired; his little red bullet flew;  
"You have made a twelve." was the call,  
And Medicus smiled, and braced himself,  
He intended to get them all.  
Nine twelves were called, "You are doing well,"  
And Medicus pulse it beat high.  
"Just one more shot and the honor's mine,"  
'Twas eleven; "You've got a black eye."

Then Medicus shouted, "By thunder !  
And to Hades with it, I say,  
May the Devil take it P. D. Q.  
Guess I've shot enough for today."  
Dictated by Medicus.

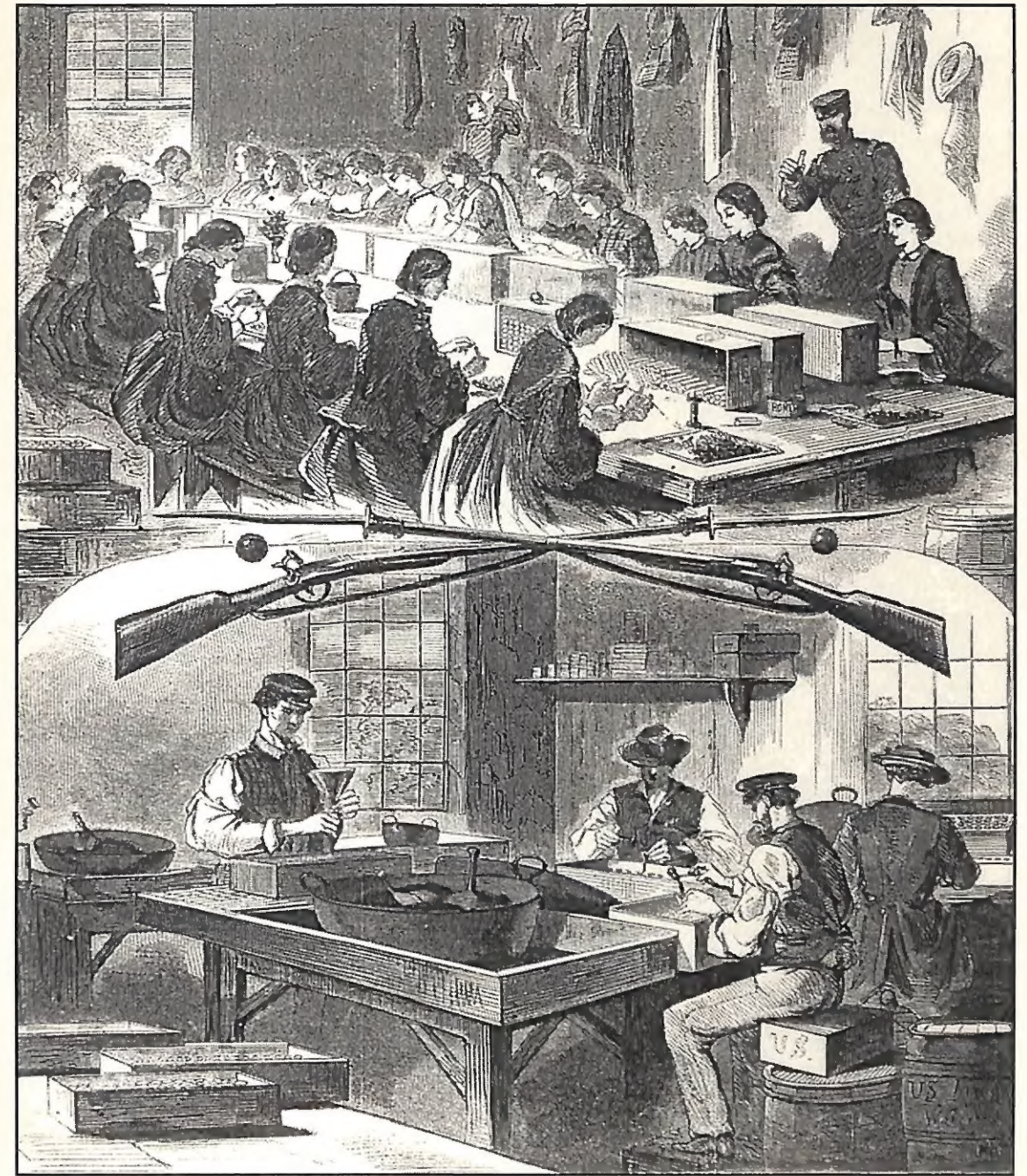




## Making Cartridges



## Filling Paper Cartridges








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MR. F. E. BENNETT.




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POSITION ADOPTED BY W. MILTON FARROW.



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have repeatedly done  
SHOOTING that was  
thought IMPOSSIBLE

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have established  
INVINCIBLE  
RECORDS

IN HUNTING  
STEVENS RIFLES  
have taken the  
LEAD

IN EXPLORING  
STEVENS RIFLES  
have withstood  
SEVEREST TESTS

IN BICYCLING  
STEVENS RIFLES  
have proved  
the most COMPACT

IN PISTOL SHOOTING  
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made records  
that never have  
been EQUALLED

IN SHOOTER'S OPINION  
STEVENS RIFLES AND PISTOLS  
possess the  
GREATEST NUMBER  
of SUPERIOR FEATURES

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MATERIAL BY THE HIGHEST SKILL  
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# Tales of Walnut Hill

April 10, 2003



## A Lady and Her Shotgun ~ By Robert P. Summa

A day in the life of a Sporting Clays shooter. Lynne Sibbald steps up to the line. She is a gracious lady. Her gold hair flows in the wind as the sun reflects her beauty. She has a gift for the game, a feel for the shotgun, an instinctive mind, and total confidence. "Let the games begin," she shouts. "Let's see the birds fly into the light blue sky and watch the rabbits run in the green grass." Then a freakish change comes, with a burst of wind swirling into the shooting field. It lifts oddly - faster or slower - as if it were bewitched. As the wind hits her face, she calls "pull!" The birds seem to lift oddly, moving high and then low in the wind, as if frolicking in the air. The fox speaks twice as two orange puffs mark the light blue sky. She loads two-7½'s into the chambers, and in a ready position, she calls "pull!" Two orange birds race into the air against a flashing blue; they fly to the right, skimming and lifting all at once. The fox speaks twice as two orange puffs mark the blue sky - two hits. Next is the rabbit run. She shouts "pull" as the rabbits race along the green grass. The fox is in pursuit. They try hard to move from the howling fox. It is in vain as the fox speaks again. As the excitement runs through her, on and on it goes. "Pull!" is the call of the day. She has total concentration. She is calm; her heart still. It's her passion for the game that drives Lynne. Ahhh, the smell of excitement at Walnut Hill's Trap and Sporting Clays. So, "let the Games begin!" P.S. We all miss you, so get well, Lynne! I have traveled the same path; remember, we are both ornery members of the Hill, and will be here to the end of time, as God watches over all his children.

See you on the range - soon!